

Morningside Community Council

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 7:30 pm Wednesday 21 September 2022

Open Door Café, 240 Morningside Road

1. Present

Office Bearers

Chair and Treasurer -Willie Black (WB)

Planning Officer – Goff Cantley (GC)

Secretary – Carol Duncan (CD)

Admin – Rebecca Diggle (RD)

Members

Moira Gibson (MG)

John Robson (JR)

Jill Powlett Brown (JPB)

Ex-officio members

Cllr Neil Ross

Cllr Ben Parker

Cllr Marie-Clar Munro

Attendees

Tamsin Kilgour

Arne Strid

Alastair Wright

Polly Purvis

Apologies

Caroline McKinley

Theo Spanellis

Maciej Malasuk

Cathy McLennan

Jennifer Scarce

Community Police Team

2. Police Report

The Council were advised that the Community Officer was unable to attend the meeting. A number of policing issues were flagged to the group:

- Police Scotland is currently consulting on 'Your Police 2022-2023', anybody can complete the survey online, and a link has been provided on the MCC Facebook page.
- An attendee noted that there had recently been an altercation on Comiston Road that had resulted in community bins being moved into the road creating road safety issues. Witnesses called 101 and Oxbang Police station but received no response. The Chair advised that 999 is used if you witness a crime in progress.
- Residents expressed frustrations with the continued illegal parking of cars on the pavement outside Abduls/Lindsay Gilmour Pharmacy on Comiston Road.
- Representatives of South Morningside Primary School (SMPS) noted on-going road safety concerns for children walking between the SMPS sites on Comiston Road and Canaan Lane. Edinburgh Council is currently surveying carers of children at both SMPS and Canaan Lane Primary School to better understand travel/ road safety issues facing children and possible solutions.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

August Minutes – The minutes were signed off as an accurate record.

Plans for the NHS Lothian sites – CD noted that the MCC had now received a response from the Royal Edinburgh following discussion of future plans for the site at the last MCC meeting, this response will be circulated. It is expected that representatives from the Royal Edinburgh will attend the October MCC meeting to further discuss the planning application.

Planters on Braidburn Crescent – CD noted that the planters have now been installed and will be maintained by local residents.

Braid Road and surrounds – Cllr Ross provided an update on the road works due to take place on Braidburn Terrace. It was advised that this work was part of a wider framework contract which is currently being tendered. The timing of commencement will therefore be determined by the plan agreed with the successful contractor.

MCC Website – The upgraded MCC website is now live and can be accessed here: www.morningside.org.uk

Bellhaven Terrace – residents reported that there has been a mixed local response to the parking changes, with traffic wardens providing residents with inconsistent advice.

20 Minute Neighbourhood – Cllr Parker advised that he will arrange a discussion with the MCC on the concept and implementation of the plans around 20 minute neighbourhoods.

4. MCC Travel Survey

CD provided an overview of the recently conducted Travel Survey, which received 755 responses (the full results can be found on the MCC webpage and FaceBook page). It was noted that:

- Over 75% of respondents live within 20 minutes of Morningside
- Only 15% of those surveyed travelled to Morningside by car . Reasons for car use were associated with mobility/disability needs, out of town travel, collection of heavy items or stopping in Morningside as part of a broader trip.
- 77% of respondents who own a car stated they mainly use the bus/cycle or walk to the Morningside area.
- Two thirds of respondents visit Morningside more than once a week.
- Respondents were most dissatisfied with the volume of traffic on the roads (78%), and the availability of cycle paths (64%) and cycle parking (59%).
- The most popular improvements identified were less traffic (64%) and more nice outside places to sit and socialise (60%), other popular improvements were more trees (53%), better pavements (52%) and the re-introduction of public toilets (49%).

It was noted that despite it being the biggest issue for respondents Edinburgh Council do not regard the road as an arterial road in their Mobility Plan.

There was significant support in the survey (69%) and within the meeting for the reintroduction of the South Suburban Railway line, which residents felt would help alleviate the traffic. Cllr Ross noted that there were currently a number of practical constraints and any decision would require engagement with Network Rail, Transport Scotland and the Scottish Parliament.

Residents questioned the possibility of introducing a new Park and Ride scheme near Hillend to reduce the volume of commuter traffic passing through Morningside. It was noted that this would be a decision for Midlothian Council and that the economics are currently unproven, especially given the P&R site at Straighton has historically been underused.

In relation to the significant road safety concerns facing local primary school children it was noted that Transport Scotland are currently trialling the use of new Zebra crossing (without lights) to better control traffic and support safer use of roads by pedestrians. Residents flagged that the road layout and surface on Canaan Lane, including the Zebra crossing remained unfinished and were causing safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and were particularly problematic given the volume of young children using the road to commute to school.

The issue of NHS delivery drivers servicing the Astley Ainslie site was raised as a concern as deliveries frequently coincided with school drop off and pick up. Residents queried whether discussions could be held with NHS Lothian to change the timings (it was noted that other local businesses had already agreed to this, which has led to significant reductions at key times).

Given the clear emphasis on in the survey responses on improving conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, and reducing traffic through the Morningside area, attendees were asked to think creatively about how these objectives could be achieved. Potential solutions ranged from implementing a bus filter along Comiston Road, introducing no car days to creating wider pavements and more social areas to increase the space for pedestrians.

To capture everyone's views post-it notes were circulated and completed during the meeting. The short report on the comments on the post-it notes is circulated along with the minutes.

5. Planning

GC updated the MCC on a number of planning issues:

Astley Ainslie – the Astley Ainslie Community Trust were to hold a public consultation meeting on Saturday 24th September at the Eric Liddell Centre

3 Cluny Avenue – plan submitted to remove existing double garage and build a new hybrid building. Awaiting decision.

Midmar Paddock – It is hoped that the planning applicant will join the MCC meeting in October to discuss the plans, which have been provisionally shared with Edinburgh Council. It is understood that these plans currently include a proposal to build a 60 bed care home, 6 assisted living houses, 2 large private houses, 82 allotments, public café and public toilets. GC flagged an important planning caveat that if planning is granted, unless legal conditions are stipulated the owner may not be obligated to build all of what has been agreed.

Old Post Office site – no update.

6. Financial position

WB noted that the MCC account currently has a balance of £3062.

7. Correspondence

- City Plan 2030 – noted that the responses were now with the SG Reporter for consideration.

8. AOCB

A number of AOCB were raised:

- **Memorial to Xander Irvine** – the wooden memorial to Xander Irvine has now been placed in Morningside Park.
- **Dogs in Cemeteries** – Cllr Munro confirmed that all dogs must now be on a lead within cemeteries.

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 19 October. The meeting will be held at the Open Door Café. (Rebecca Diggle, Admin)